

ROMA RIGHTS IN A CHANGING EUROPE

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Human Rights Association & Essex Human Rights Review**

PROGRAMME

The Discrimination of the Roma throughout European History: From Arrival to World War II, Claudia Tavani

From Social Exclusion to Ethnic Discrimination: Roma from Central and Eastern Europe, Lavinia Olmazu

Cultural Changes and Community's Reality: Roma Asylum Seekers in the United Kingdom, Florina Zoltan

'Roma Rights' and the Law: Contemporary Approaches & Limitations, by Nidhi Trehan

Chair: Tatjana Peri_

SPEAKERS

CLAUDIA TAVANI is a first year PhD student in the Law Department, University of Essex. She is concentrating her studies on the Roma minority in Europe, with an emphasis on the case of Roma in Italy. Claudia is also a Senior Editor with the Essex Human Rights Review, a new online human rights publication.

LAVINIA OLMAZU is currently undertaking an MSc in European Social Policy at the London School of Economics. She is a Chevening Scholar with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom and received her Philology degree at the University of Bucharest in her native Romania. In addition to working as a Program Coordinator for the Bucharest-based Rroma Centre for Public Policies "Aven Amenza" since 1997, Lavinia has served as a consultant and expert on Roma-related issues to a number of national and international institutions, including her current affiliation with the Minority Rights Group International.

FLORINA ZOLTAN is currently undertaking an MA in Romani Studies and Social Sciences, Greenwich University and has the post of Researcher in a trans-European program led by the Center of Research in the Education of Adults (CREA) at the University of Barcelona, looking at the barriers faced by Roma/Gypsies and Travellers in education, training and employment. Florina has a personal interest in this area: She came to the UK in 2001 as a Romani asylum seeker in and for two years now has voluntarily worked on a number of cases of Romani asylum seekers, mostly from Romania, for the London-based Roma Resources Centre.

NIDHI TREHAN holds a Masters in Public Affairs from the University of Texas, Austin. From 1996-97, she served as researcher, and then educational co-ordinator for the European Roma Rights Center, a Budapest-based public interest law organisation working for the rights of Romani minorities in Europe. She worked with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in 2002 to strengthen research capacity at the Centre for Refugees & Forced Migration Studies, Skopje, Macedonia. At this time, she worked directly with the Romani,

Ashkali, and Egyptian (RAE) refugee population from Kosovo. Currently, she is a PhD candidate at the London School of Economics, Department of Sociology.